

# STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY & AUDIOLOGY



## Newsletter



Volume XVI, No. 1

Spring 2001

### NEW BOARD MEMBERS CONFIRMED

The new Board members were called to Austin during the Seventy-Seventh Legislative Session for a confirmation hearing. Following the hearing, the appointment of **Bertha M. (Bert) Campbell, Deborah L. (Deb) Carlson, Matthew H. Lyon and Cheryl L. (Sherry) Sancibrian** to the State Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology was confirmed.

### THREE BOARD POSITIONS OPEN IN 2001

Board members Elsa Cardenas-Hagan (speech-language pathologist), Harvey Komet, M.D. (Physician – Public Member) and Matthew Lyon (audiologist), will complete their terms on August 31, 2001. Matthew Lyon completed the last year of the term of George Cire who resigned from the Board when he left the state.

Licensees interested in serving a six-year term on the Board may contact the Governor's Appointments Office (512) 463-1828 for information relative to submission of their name for consideration of appointment. A physician - public member will also be appointed.

Board members are expected to attend two – four Board meetings a year and conduct other business of the Board throughout the year. Each member serves on committees as assigned by the presiding officer of the Board.

The Board is responsible for upholding the law as stated in the statute. The Licensure Act for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology is a consumer protection law.

Interested parties may obtain additional information by visiting the Governor's Appointments Office Website:  
[governor.state.tx.us/appointments](http://governor.state.tx.us/appointments)

### DESIGNATOR "SLP-A" CAN BE CONFUSING

Assistants should NOT use "SLP-A" as an indicator of their credentials. Assistants may use "Assistant SLP" if they need to shorten the title.

Many licensees who hold dual certification from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association use the SLP/A or SLP-A to indicate they hold certification in both speech-language pathology and audiology. Licensees who have questions regarding how they may display their credential may contact the Board Office.

### CONTINUING EDUCATION REMINDERS

#### BOARD APPROVED CE SPONSORS ARE LISTED ON THE BOARD WEBSITE:

Licensees should check the Board website to ensure the CE sponsor of the program they plan to attend is an approved sponsor. Approved sponsors may change during the year.

#### CE'S VIA THE INTERNET – NOT APPROVED

At the current time continuing education hours obtained via the Internet have not been approved by the Board. The Board will address the issue this year.

#### EDUCATION SERVICE CENTERS:

Education Service Centers ARE NOT approved by the State Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology to sponsor CE's.

#### CE "ROLL-OVER" CHANGED:

Effective September 1, 2004 Requirements for Professional Education (Section 741.162) will allow licensees to accrue only ten (10) additional hours per renewal period, with the excess to "carry-over" to the following year. Currently a licensee may earn an additional twenty (20) hours per renewal period and the excess carries over to the next two years.

## NEWSLETTER CHANGES

*Due to budgetary limitations within The Texas Department of Health the Board Newsletter has been reduced to four pages and licensees will be referred to the Board Homepage for details of rule changes, and standard information sections, e.g., Praxis information, CE Sponsors, and Board member contact information.*

[www.tdh.state.tx.us/hcqs/plc/speech.htm](http://www.tdh.state.tx.us/hcqs/plc/speech.htm)

## DISCIPLINARY ACTION

ON JANUARY 11, 2001 THE BOARD:

Imposed a 12-month suspension of **James Brillante who holds speech-language pathology license number 16086**. The suspension is probated over a 12-month period. The suspension is the result of a formal disciplinary action for alleged violations of the Act and Rules of 22 T.A. C., Section 741.41(a)(1) that requires a licensee honor his/her responsibility to his/her clients. In addition to the required hours of continuing education necessary for license renewal, **James Brillante** shall earn an additional 20 hours of approved continuing education relating to organizational skills, file maintenance, record keeping, and general management skills.

Imposed a 6-month suspension of **Merrie Voigt, who holds speech-language pathology license number 17852**. The decision to suspend the license was pursuant to Section 401.451 of the Act, based on **Ms. Voigt's** violation of 22 Texas Administrative Code, Section 741(a)(1)(A)(v), which requires that a licensee maintain accurate records of professional services rendered.

Two reprimands were issued:

- One for practicing as an audiology intern without direct supervision. A violation of Board Rules, Section 741.82(g) that requires the 36-week internship be completed under supervision.
- One for failure to provide appropriate supervision to an intern in audiology.

In addition to the disciplinary actions by the Board, a Letter of Agreement was reached with a speech-language pathologist who was unable to furnish evidence of continuing professional education.

The Complaints Committee agreed that the current disciplinary action initiated against a licensee who practiced beyond the grace period

would be revised. Currently, the license is renewed and the licensee has been issued a Letter of Warning. The new procedure will include renewal of the license and a letter to the licensee explaining that disciplinary action to be initiated will be determined at the next Complaints Committee meeting. This action could be a Letter of Reprimand or more severe penalty depending on the length of time the violation occurred and whether it is a repeat violation.

## Q & A

**Q. I have attended several continuing education events at area hospitals and schools this past year. I've entered them on my CE Log. Is that all I need to do?**

**A.** Licensees must possess proof of attendance from the approved sponsor before adding the event to the CE Log. Do not submit proof, or the CE Log to the Board office unless you have been selected for audit, are reactivating an inactive license, or renewing the license after expiration of the grace period. Be sure a Board approved sponsor offered each program listed.

**Q. I understand that the Board has eliminated the "Roll-Over" for continuing education hours. I have a lot of hours left over from previous years. I had accumulated them so I wouldn't have to worry about CE while I took next year off. Can I use them since I won't be working?**

**A.** First, the simple answer is **yes** you can use the CE hours you have accumulated during the past two years since the new rule goes into effect beginning September 1, 2004. Specific information on the Rule may be obtained on the Board's Website. Secondly, the purpose of requiring professional continuing education is one of assisting licensees to maintain current practice standards. Maintaining currency in the practice of speech-language pathology and/or audiology is one way of assuring the public that the highest quality services will be provided by licensees.

**Q. Are the new ASHA regulations regarding mandatory continuing education identical to the rules set by the Licensure Board?**

**A.** NO, be sure to review the Board Rules carefully on the Website. They are very specific. There are different effective dates and submission requirements. You may also check the ASHA website for their requirements and reporting procedures: <http://asha.professional.org>

## **AVOID LICENSE RENEWAL DELAYS**

Delays in license renewal often occur when licensees do not read the instructions, leave questions unanswered, answer incorrectly, or do not sign and date the form. A license will not be renewed if the licensee has not earned the required CE hours. Licensees should never respond to question #2 with "yes" if they have not received proof of attendance from a Board approved sponsor as listed on the Board's Website. The CE Log and proof must be maintained for at least three years. When selected for audit, the renewal form will have: "Renewal Form – Selected for Audit" centered on the form below the Board's address. In addition the language on page 2 lists the required documentation. Do not confuse the Renewal Form with the Payment Instruction Form. If a licensee does not receive or loses the original renewal form and requests a reprint, the payment coupon cannot be used because it is not printed on the identifiable "special paper." The licensee must mail the renewal form and fee to the Comptroller at the PO Box listed on the STOP form. This does create a 2-3 day delay, so it is advisable to use the original renewal notice and coupon.

## **TEXAS OCCUPATION CODE AND BOARD RULES**

All licensees should print the Texas Occupation Code and Board Rules, effective 12/24/00 from the Board Website. Pay special attention to the Code of Ethics, Section 741.41. Also, supervisors of interns and assistants should read the Code of Ethics plus the sections relating to qualifications for licensure of assistants and interns (interns 741.62 and 741.82; assistants 741.65 and 741.85).

## **SIGNATURES ON "ARD" FORM**

Anyone, including an assistant, may sign on the record of attendance line. An assistant may not sign to "agree or disagree."

## **BOARD OFFICE TO MOVE**

The Board office may move after January 17, 2002. The location is not known at the time of this writing. The new physical address will be available on the Board's Website as soon as the new address is announced by the Dept. of Health.

## **STUDY OF COMPLAINT PROCEDURES**

House Bill 2408, passed in the 77<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session, requires the Health Professions Council to study the complaint procedures for specific state health care entities (including speech-language pathology and audiology) and to develop a report with recommendations for a standard procedure for the handling of such complaints. One of the purposes of licensing health professions is to document and consider consumer complaints ranging from a health professional's rude behavior to serious ethical violations. There are many different health professional licensing agencies in Texas and each agency presently manages the complex complaint process in a different manner.

## **REGULATING PROFESSIONALS ON THE INTERNET**

House Bill 100 that passed in the 77<sup>th</sup> Legislature clarifies that a state licensing authority has the same regulatory power over actions on the Internet as it has in a non-Internet setting. Both federal and state licensing agencies have developed rules to regulate professionals providing a service to consumers. With services to consumers now being provided via the Internet, there may be confusion as to the authority of state licensing authorities that regulate professionals on the Internet with the same authority as in a non-Internet situation.

## **STATEWISE**

In 1999 the Texas Legislature adopted SB 874, creating the Electronic Government Task Force to assess the feasibility of establishing an Internet site through which the state could send information to citizens and citizens could send information back to the state.

[www.texasonline.state.tx.us](http://www.texasonline.state.tx.us) is the Internet portal that now makes it easier to do business with the State of Texas. Beginning May 7<sup>th</sup> Texans began renewing their driver's licenses online. The Dept. of Insurance has begun insurance licensing searches and renewals. The State Board for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology will eventually be included in the network. This shall allow for license applications and renewals via the Internet.

**CONSUMER COMPLAINT  
INFORMATION**

P.O. BOX 141369  
AUSTIN, TX 78714-1369

PHONE: 1-800-942-5540

**BOARD OFFICE**

PHONE: (512) 834-6627

FAX: (512) 834-6677

Dorothy Cawthon, Exec. Sec.  
Lanell Brown  
Sarah Nunnery  
Sharon Selman  
David Grace

**E-MAIL:** [speech@tdh.state.tx.us](mailto:speech@tdh.state.tx.us)

**WEBSITE-BOARD HOMEPAGE**

[www.tdh.state.tx.us/hcqs/plc/speech.htm](http://www.tdh.state.tx.us/hcqs/plc/speech.htm)

**BOARD MAILING ADDRESSES**

**CORRESPONDENCE DOES NOT INCLUDE A FEE:**

1100 West 49<sup>th</sup> Street  
Austin, Texas 78756-3183

**CORRESPONDENCE WHICH INCLUDES A FEE:**

State Board of Examiners for Speech-Language  
Pathology and Audiology  
Texas Department of Health  
P.O. Box 12197 Capitol Station  
Austin, TX 78711-2197

**BOARD MEMBERS**

Bertha M. (Bert) Campbell

Elsa Cardenas-Hagan

Judith (Judy) A. Chambers

Deborah (Deb) L. Carlson

Harvey Komet

Matthew H. Lyon

Lee Reeves

Eric Reynolds

Cheryl (Sherry) L. Sancibrian

The Texas Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Newsletter is the official publication of the State Board of Examiners in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology. Licensees must notify the Board Office of any address change. The Board is not responsible for lost, misdirected, or undeliverable correspondence, including forms and fees, if sent to the address last reported to the Board. Change in name, address or phone number must be submitted in writing.

**Go to the Board Website for information regarding:  
Texas Occupations Code, Board Rules, Board  
Forms, CE Approved Sponsors in Texas, PRAXIS  
Information, Board Policies and Guidelines, etc.**

Editor

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